MA99 EDUCATION

Feed: Summary

NSW ENGLISH STANDARD 11-12 SYLLABUS 2024 FOR HSC 2027 AND LATER

Where this sits. This is the Summary for Feed. The Text Pack (Document A), Practice Questions (Document B) and Graduated Exemplars (Document C) hold the detail, and the Glossary lists the terms.

No quotation from the novel, on purpose

M. T. Anderson is alive and the novel is in copyright. MA99 prints none of his words and none of his invented slang. So this sheet has **moments to point at** where other texts would have quotations. The only quotations are from critics, and each is attributed. In the exam you may quote your own copy as much as you like.

1. What the text is

FACT	WHAT TO KNOW
Text	Feed, a novel by M. T. Anderson. Science fiction and satire, in the first person.
First published	2002 (Document A section 2).
Prescribed edition	Candlewick Press, 2012, ISBN 9780763662622. It is a reprint of the 2002 book.
Course and focus area	English Standard, Year 12. Close study of literature, Paper 2 Section II. Prescribed for the HSC from 2027 to 2030.
The paper	Paper 2 is 2 hours plus 5 minutes reading time and 60 marks. Section II is one extended response, worth 20 marks. The question may include a stimulus.
Not the same book	A 2010 American novel with the same title, a 2018 British novel and Anderson's Landscape with Invisible Hand are different books (Document A section 2.2).

Cite the **part** and a **moment**, never a page. Three sources give three different page counts for the same ISBN, and your copy may be a different edition (Document A section 2).

2. The big ideas, in plain words

1. **A market has got inside the mind.** Most people in the novel have a feed, a computer implanted in the brain. It sells to them, and it shapes how they think from infancy.
2. **Language is being worn down.** The narrator has too few words for his own experience. He feels things and cannot name them.
3. **Resistance is priced, not punished.** Nobody attacks Violet. A corporation declines to repair her because she has made herself impossible to sell to.
4. **The world is falling apart and nobody follows it.** War, riots and ruined air arrive as noise on the same channel as the advertisements.
5. **Love is hard to tell in a language made for selling.** Titus tells Violet their story as a film trailer.

3. How the text is built

FEATURE	WHAT TO KNOW	WHERE
Four parts	Moon, Eden, Utopia, Slumberland. Each title is ironic: a resort, a hospital, the place Violet begins to die, and a sleep that may be a death.	Document A section 4
Part four headings	The chapter headings become percentage figures for how well Violet's implant works. They open in the high eighties and close at 4.6.	Document A section 4.4
Narrator	Titus tells the whole story in the first person. Close to sixty short chapters.	Document A section 5
Interruptions	Material from the feed breaks into the narration inside chapters, not between them.	Document A section 5.2
Last page	The last words are an advertisement. They are not Titus's. The type shrinks as it repeats.	Document A section 4.5

The one distinction to master. Titus is **limited**, not **unreliable**. An unreliable narrator misleads you about events. Titus reports events accurately. What he cannot do is understand or name them. Trust the events. Distrust only his understanding. The gap between what he sees and what he can say is the book (Document A section 5).

4. The story in four steps

PART	WHAT HAPPENS	WHAT IT IS FOR
Moon	Teenagers on a moon holiday. Titus meets Violet. A stranger attacks their implants. They fall holding hands.	Sets up the world and the first hand hold.
Eden	Offline in a hospital, the group is bored. Reconnected, they are flooded with advertising and news. Violet shows an unusual literacy.	Shows what the feed has replaced.
Utopia	Home to a manufactured world. Violet scrambles her consumer profile. Her body fails. Lesions become fashion. She breaks at a party.	The main argument about consumption and class.
Slumberland	Percentage headings. The corporation refuses the repair. Titus deletes her memories. They break up. Last scene at her bedside.	Tragedy, and the ending.

5. Techniques that matter, with a moment to point at

TECHNIQUE	THE EFFECT	MOMENT TO POINT AT
First person limited narration	The reader must work out what Titus cannot.	Anywhere in the book. Violet's distress is seen but not named.
Structure as argument	The form says what no character can.	Part four chapter headings, from the high eighties down to 4.6.
Irony	The titles say one thing and the parts show another.	Eden is a hospital on the moon where the group is bored.
Symbol	A symptom of damage becomes a fashion.	Artificial lesions at the party in Utopia, while Violet really declines.
Motif	The held hand ties the end to the start.	Hands held at the attack in Moon and again in the last chapter.
Satire	Comedy exposes a world that is also disturbing.	A medical negligence lawyer's advertisement fills Titus's feed as Violet collapses.

TECHNIQUE	THE EFFECT	MOMENT TO POINT AT
Register	Love is told in the words of a sales pitch.	Titus tells Violet their story as a film trailer.
Typography	The page itself ends the story.	The closing advertisement shrinks until it cannot be read.

6. Eight critic quotations

These are the only quotations MA99 prints for this text. Name the outlet and say what kind of source it is (Document A section 9.2).

QUOTATION	WHO AND WHERE	WHAT IT SHOWS
"the novel takes a profoundly activist position by virtue of its narrative structure"	Bullen and Parsons, Children's Literature in Education, 2007 (refereed article)	The form does the arguing.
"Resistance in Feed is, therefore, for the most part presented as futile."	Sean P. Connors, Study and Scrutiny (refereed article)	The sceptical case.
"Readers are consequently left to wonder if there is any hope for Titus"	Connors, same article	The ending is open.
"she ultimately pays for her transgressions with her life"	Connors, same article	What resistance costs Violet.
"Anderson's political plotline may be the most childish aspect of his novel"	Nicole Penn, American Purpose, 2022 (essay by a policy writer)	The politics are the weak part.
"Feed would be a more repulsive book if its social satire wasn't so funny"	Penn, same essay	Comedy and disgust work together.
"Disturbing yet wickedly funny, with as brilliant a use of decayed language ..."	Horn Book Fanfare (publisher's praise block)	The invented idiom is an achievement.
"A darkly comic satire that can be read as a promise or a warning."	Detroit Free Press (a blurb)	A two sided view in one line.

The field splits: is the book's despair part of its argument, or the limit of it? Name one critic who would refuse your claim, then answer them from the novel.

7. How to use it in the exam

Focus area: Close study of literature (Paper 2, Section II). One question, 20 marks, about 40 minutes (MA99's suggested split, not NESA's). The question will not name the novel, the author or any character, because one question serves every prescribed text in the focus area.

Worked example · The six minute plan

1. **Decide.** Do you agree with the proposition? Write one sentence.
2. **Name the denial.** What is the best reason someone would disagree?
3. **Choose two stretches** of the novel to prove it and one to test it. Use different parts.
4. **Pick two anchors a paragraph.** An anchor is a part, a place in it, and a short description of the moment in your own words.
5. **Mark where the denial is answered.** That paragraph is your response.

Use the six propositions (Document A section 8). Pick two you can argue and one you can argue against.

PROPOSITION	ONE LINE	BEST ANCHORS
A. The plot punishes the one who acts	The scrambled profile is why the repair is refused.	The shopping centre in Utopia. The refusal in Slumberland.
B. The narrator is not redeemed	His last act turns Violet into a product.	The deleted memories. The trailer.
C. The politics are withheld	War and riots arrive as noise.	The reconnection in Eden. The air plant in Utopia.
D. Violet is a second consumer	Her critique and her wanting are one person.	The shopping trip. Her last message.
E. The headings are the argument	The form measures a body.	Part four headings. The shrinking type.
F. The irresolution is designed	We cannot tell if she is dead.	The last chapter.

If a stimulus appears, decide whether you agree. Find the one word you can dispute, such as always or only. Use it in paragraph one and come back to it once, late (Document B section 6).

8. Three common mistakes

1. **Giving the last words to Titus.** They belong to an advertisement. Say the narration is taken from him and given to the system.
2. **Saying Violet dies of the lesions, or that her resistance killed her.** The sabotage caused the injury. Her scrambled profile decided whether it would be repaired. Write that her resistance is why she was not saved. The cause of the lesions is implied, never confirmed.
3. **Retelling the plot, or quoting slang as proof.** A coinage proves little: say what it replaces. A paragraph per part is a tour, not an argument.

- [ ] I can say what each of the four part titles is ironic against.
- [ ] I have two propositions, each with a denial, and six anchors with no page numbers.
- [ ] I have written one full response in 40 minutes with the book closed.

Coverage

This sheet quotes nothing from the novel. The critic quotations come from Document A section 9.2 and the facts from Documents A and B. No past paper or marked response exists for this text, because the first HSC under this syllabus is 2027.

About this resource

MA99 EDUCATION

Scope

NSW English Standard, Year 12. Written to the NSW English Standard 11-12 Syllabus 2024, Feed, for students sitting the HSC in 2027 and later years. This pack discusses its prescribed text without reproducing it. Short quotations from critics are attributed. No text by the prescribed author is reproduced.

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